IDIOT'S DELIGHT
CLARK GABLE
NORMA SHEARER
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER
STUDIO NEWS
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER
STUDIO NEWS
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Eddie Cantor Signed by M-G-M To Star in Big Musical Comedy

Eddie Cantor will return to the screen under the banner of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. A contract just signed assures exhibitors at least one big Cantor musical comedy during 1939 with the star of "Kid Boots," "Whoopee," "The Kid from Spain" and "Roman Scandals."

Although Cantor has not made a picture since "Ali Baba Goes to Town," devoting all his time to radio, his activity on the air has kept him closely associated with the screen.

His personal appearances have been terrific successes and in the course of his radio work he has constantly kept his audiences picture-minded with his screen discoveries. The latest is Terry Kilburn, the English boy actor who scored in "Lord Jeff" and "Christmas Carol." Cantor also was responsible to a great degree for the careers of Deanna Durbin and Bobby Breen.

Cantor

Detailed plans for Cantor's first picture under his contract with M-G-M will be announced shortly.

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M-G-M BUYS "SWEEPSTAKES"

"Sweepstakes," an original story of the fates that befall five sweepstakes ticket winners, written by Charles Martin, has been purchased by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and scheduled for early production. Louis D. Lighton, who made "Captains Courageous" and "Test Pilot," will produce.

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Title Is Changed for New Nelson Eddy Film

As this issue of Studio News goes to press, announcement is made that a new title has been chosen for "Song of the West," the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production starring Nelson Eddy, with Virginia Bruce and Victor McLaglen. The picture will be released as "The Dusty Road."

Wallace Beery Starts Work On 'Sergt. Madden'

With "Stand Up and Fight" on its way to box-office records, Wallace Beery this week started production on "Sergeant Madden," his next Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture. Josef von Sternberg is directing.

It is the story of a New York police sergeant and one that Beery long has wanted to play as a tribute to his father, who was a Kansas City policeman.

The cast, thus far, includes Tom Brown, Alan Curtis and Laraine Johnson, a new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer discovery.

Wells Root wrote the screenplay from an original story by William A. Ullman, Jr. J. Walter Ruben, who directed Beery in the eminently successful "Bad Man of Brimstone," is the producer.

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Eddy Signs New M-G-M Contract

With concert halls of thirty-three cities sold out months in advance for his 1939 tour, and with his work in "Sweethearts" pointing to new screen popularity, Nelson Eddy has been signed to a new long-term contract by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Now in the midst of work in "The Dusty Road," Eddy will start his new tour in Pasadena, February 2, appearing next in San Antonio, Texas, and then heading East. Upon his return he will make at least two films in 1939, an untitled musical in which he will be teamed again with Jeanette MacDonald, and "Balalaika," with Ilona Massey opposite.

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Owen Goes Into 'Fast and Loose'

From his remarkable characterization of pinch-penny Scrooge in "Christmas Carol," versatile Reginald Owen steps into the modern role of a scheming broker in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Fast and Loose," comedy starring Robert Montgomery and Rosalind Russell.

Frederick Stephani produces.

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VIRGINIA BRUCE SINGS

Virginia Bruce becomes the singing partner of Nelson Eddy in the current Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture, "The Dusty Road," according to announcement by Harry Rapf, the producer. She will sing with the star in Drigo's "Serenade."

MICKEY ROONEY, as "Huckleberry Finn," in the new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picturization of Mark Twain's famous character. Joseph Mankiewicz produces.

MacDonald Sings 'Mme. Butterfly' In 1939 Setting

An elaborate "Madame Butterfly" sequence, done in ultra modernistic fashion, was shot this week as one of the outstanding eye and ear tidbits of "Broadway Serenade," starring Jeanette MacDonald.

Instead of the conventional black-haired chorus, the girls who appear with Miss MacDonald as she sings "One Fine Day" wear white wigs with their pastel colored kimonos and the number is staged in highly imaginative setting designed by Merrill Pye and Joe Wright.

"Broadway Serenade," which features Lew Ayres, Frank Morgan and Ian Hunter, is directed by Robert Z. Leonard, who also is the producer.

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HIDES $1,000,000 FIGURE

Claire James, named "Miss America" of 1938" by Earl Carroll, hides her million dollar figure under a nurse's uniform in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Four Girls In White."

Midgets Rescue Judy Garland As Ponies Run Away

Judy Garland in a midget runaway, rescued by midget heroes, provided a thrill not in the script on "The Wizard of Oz" set at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Judy was riding in the tiny coach, drawn by tiny Shetland ponies, for her reception by the gnomelike Munchkins, played by 116 midgets. As the ponies drew the coach along the tiny path of the miniature village, a large electric globe in one of the Technicolor lamps exploded with a loud pop. The frightened ponies dashed for the end of the set.

Carl Becker, Billy Curtis and others stopped the runaway.

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LENSMEN HONOR CRAWFORD

Joan Crawford, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star of "The Ice Follies of 1939," has been selected by Hollywood news photographers as the "most co-operative star of the year." They presented her with a large gold cup.

LEO ABROAD

London (England): "EMPIRE FOUR DAYS BUSINESS WITH 'CITADEL' EXCEEDS PRACTICALLY EVERY OTHER FILM'S FIVE DAYS TAKINGS DURING TEN YEARS STOP TUESDAY'S TAKINGS ESTALISHED NEW ALL-TIME RECORD ONE DAY'S BUSINESS STOP TODAY'S ONE O'CLOCK FIGURE EXCEEDS PREVIOUS RECORD BY FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE STOP 'CITADEL' IS ALL-TIME RECORD BREAKER."

* * *

The first showing at Sandringham Palace during the Christmas holidays for Their Majesties King George and Queen Elizabeth was an all-M-G-M program, consisting of: "SWEETHEARTS," "SYDNEY, PRIDE OF AUSTRALIA" (Fitzpatrick Travelogue), "THE MIRACLE OF SALT LAKE" (Carey Wilson Subject), and "THE CAPTAIN'S CHRISTMAS" (Cartoon).

* * *

M-G-M Paris has assembled fifteen panels illustrating the life of MARIE ANTOINETTE by means of rare documents concerning the famous Queen of France. Much success was obtained from a similar exhibition of the life of Napoleon which was organized for the showing of "MARIE WALEWSKA."

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KORJUS SONGS ON RECORDS

Miliza Korjus, who won her first film contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer on the basis of her European phonograph recordings, last week recorded for Victor the four Johann Strauss numbers which she sings in "The Great Waltz." They are "There'll Come a Time," "Tales from the Vienna Woods," excerpts from "Die Fledermaus" and "One Day When We Were Young."

LUBITSCH TO DIRECT GARBO IN 'NINOTCHKA'

'Shop Around the Corner' Is Included In MGM Deal With Noted Director

Ernst Lubitsch has closed negotiations with Louis B. Mayer by which Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer takes over his services as producer and director. He will direct Greta Garbo's next picture, "Ninotchka," which will be produced by Sidney Franklin. Lubitsch will limit his activity to direction on his first picture.

Lubitsch

"The Shop Around the Corner," which the director-producer planned to make as his first independent venture, will be made under the M-G-M banner, with Lubitsch producing and directing. Margaret Sullavan and James Stewart will appear in the leading roles. The picture is based on a stage play by Nickolaus Laszlo. Samuel Raphaelson will write the screen treatment.

"Ninotchka" is now in preparation for immediate production.

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'Prince of Pilsen' Bought by M-G-M

Still remembered from the mauve decade of 1903, the operetta, "Prince of Pilsen," has been acquired by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for modern screen treatment. The book and lyrics by Frank Pixley, with music by Gustav Luders, were popular throughout the country for a generation. The operetta still holds records for sustained popularity on the road. The show first opened at the Broadway theatre as a Henry W. Savage production.

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Mickey and Judy To Play 'Babes'

A heydey for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's outstanding family of junior talent looms with the purchase of Dick Rodgers' and Larry Hart's musical spectacle, "Babes In Arms." Already set for the leads are Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, versatile singing-dancing-playing duo, with Betty Jaynes and Douglas McPhail also prominently cast.

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RIBBER HECKLES ROMANCE

Albert Morin, who has won fame as Hollywood's premier "ribber," has been cast as a heckling waiter who interrupts a budding love affair between Florence Rice and Alan Marshal in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Four Girls In White." S. Sylvan Simon directs, Nat Levine producing.

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CRAWFORD SUPPLIES PROPS

Real pictures of Joan Crawford when she first signed her contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios were used in a lobby display for the theatre sequence in her new picture, "The Ice Follies of 1939."

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REUNITED AFTER 14 YEARS

"The Dusty Road" marks the first reunion in fourteen years of Victor McLaglen and Director Jack Conway. Their last previous association was "The Hunted Woman," released early in 1925.

Tracy Usurps Gable Throne

Spencer Tracy has had his revenge against Clark Gable.

Friendly feudists since their Broadway stage days, their feud flared up again recently since Gable has been called "The King" around M-G-M.

Now, Tracy wears the flashiest of men's fashions for his role with Hedy Lamarr in "I Take This Woman." The costly duds made Tracy feel like a king, so he had the company stillman make a "fashion sitting" of himself.

To Gable, he sent a picture of Gable wrapped in black crepe, labeled, "The King is Dead." In the same package were the fashion portraits of himself, captioned, "Long Live the King!"

'Tarzan In Exile' Starts Shooting

"Tarzan In Exile," first of the Tarzan pictures to be made by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer since the company acquired the screen rights to all of Edgar Rice Burroughs exciting stories of the jungle man, went into production this week, with Richard Thorpe directing.

Johnny Weissmuller once more is seen as the powerful Ape Man and Maureen O'Sullivan again will portray his mate in the wilderness.

A new personality will be introduced in this picture in the person of Tarzan's adopted son. The boy, who will be an outstanding young athlete, will emulate Tarzan's amazing physical feats.

Director Thorpe comes up to this assignment with an enviable record of recent productions, including "The Crowd Roars," "Three Loves Has Nancy" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Sam Zimbalist is the producer.

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ATTENTION, WAFFLE EATERS

Hollywood, the miracle city, has outdone itself to produce one waffle capable of feeding more than 400. In the screen's latest miniature musical, "Happily Buried," a practical waffle-iron will be seen which it takes no less than 250 pounds of batter to cover. Jack Chertok is producing.

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LAMARR IN NEW HAIRDRESS

A new and sensational hairdress, still guarded with secrecy, is to be introduced by Hedy Lamarr in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "I Take This Woman." It's one of Sydney Guilaroff's creations.

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BERKELEY DIRECTS FINALE

Busby Berkeley, screen and dance director, will stage a spectacular finale for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Broadway Serenade," starring Jeanette MacDonald.

'Citadel' Voted Best Film of Year By N. Y. Critics

Doubly honored in the annual poll of New York film critics, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer won awards both for the best picture of 1938 and the best feminine performance of the year.

"The Citadel," M-G-M's second British-made production, which King Vidor directed with Robert Donat and Rosalind Russell co-starred, won top honors among all films. Victor Saville was its producer.

For her work in the feminine lead of "Three Comrades," Margaret Sullavan was voted the finest actress of the year. Joseph Mankiewicz produced the film, Frank Borzage directing.

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HARDYS NOW ALL-AMERICAN

Following her decision to make Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's Judge Hardy Family series of pictures one hundred per cent American, Fay Holden, English citizen who created the role of Mother Hardy, has filed her intention of becoming a naturalized American citizen.

MacDonald-Eddy Set New Records In 'Sweethearts'

"Sweethearts," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's latest Jeanette MacDonald-Nelson Eddy starring musical, has broken the box-office records of every MacDonald-Eddy picture to date. Reports from ten key cities show that the opening week-end revenue exceeded that of "Maytime," "Girl of the Golden West" and "The Firefly" by from $125 to more than $1,700.

St. Louis, Cleveland and Baltimore report the biggest smash openings. In Cleveland, the week-end business topped "Firefly" by $1,791. In St. Louis and Baltimore, where "Maytime" held the record, "Sweethearts" drew $1,752 and $1,570 more respectively.

The week end grosses of "Sweethearts" were: Washington, $9,999; Pittsburgh, $11,731; St. Louis, $11,107; Cleveland, $9,639; Baltimore, $9,286; Kansas City, $8,450; Indianapolis, $6,300; Houston, $6,596; Richmond, $5,579; Louisville, $4,750.

JOAN CRAWFORD combines beauty, grace and speed in the new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer dramatic spectacle, "Ice Follies of 1939." Featured with her and seen here are James Stewart and Lew Ayres. Harry Rapf produced.

Norma SHEARER

Stars Reunited in Film Of Pulitzer Prize Play

Norma Shearer and Clark Gable, together for the first time since their memorable performances in "A Free Soul" and "Strange Interlude," bring to the screen in "Idiot's Delight" the most important motion picture production in a decade.

Produced by Hunt Stromberg for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer from Robert Sherwood's Pulitzer Prize winning play, the story has become the subject of international controversy.

Stromberg

Directed by Clarence Brown, it presents Norma Shearer again as a modern, dashing woman and gives Clark Gable as Harry "Personality" Van, a hoofer, the greatest role of his career.

Fidelity to the historic stage success that was sold out for more than a year on Broadway is assured by the fact that Robert Sherwood, the author, also wrote the screen play.

With the sweeping physical advantages of the camera, "Idiot's Delight" comes to the screen in 41 sets where the play was presented in one and covers the entire dramatic story, much of which only was talked about on the stage, including the sensational air raid scene.

In the supporting cast are Edward Arnold, Charles Coburn, Burgess Meredith, Joseph Schildkraut, Laura Hope Crews, Skeets Gallagher, Edward Raquello, Pat Patterson, Peter Willes, Fritz Feld, William Edmunds and the "Gable Glamour Girls," Virginia Grey, Paula Stone, Joan Marsh, Bernadene Hayes, Virginia Dale and Lorraine Krueger.

Dog Bites Gable! Scores Bull's Eye As Padding Slips!

It's news when a dog bites Clark Gable!

"But it wasn't funny," said Gable, who couldn't sit down for several days because Buster, a mongrel bulldog, became over-zealous to do a good job in a scene for "Idiot's Delight."

The script called for the star, as a book salesman, to have a dog chase him and catch him by the coat tail.

Buster was taught to do the routine thoroughly, but gentlemanly. As an added precaution, Gable was protected with a pad.

When Director Clarence Brown said, "Camera!" Gable started to run. In the excitement, Buster forgot his manners. On the first jump, he nipped Gable's ankle. The second bite was a bull'seye.

"Cut!" yelled Brown.

"Cut!" said Gable, "I'm bleeding!"

Gable's protecting pad had slipped.

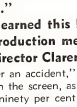
EXPLOITATION "Idiot's Delight"

Success of Any Picture Depends On Preparation, Declares Brown

"The success or failure of a motion picture is determined months before a camera turns."

Hollywood has learned this lesson from experience and is constantly revising its production methods to assure superior entertainment, according to Director Clarence Brown.

"A good picture is never an accident," he said. "Achievement on the screen, as in any other business, is ninety per cent hard work, with inspiration and luck playing minor roles. The time, effort and thought spent on a production before it starts is repaid many times, when the result is a finer picture."


Brown

Brown devoted two years to preparing for the filming of Robert Sherwood's Pulitzer Prize winning play, "Idiot's Delight," produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer with Norma Shearer and Clark Gable as co-stars.

"Putting a picture together is like a jig-saw puzzle," he asserted. "Story, cast, settings, costumes and a hundred other details must fit smoothly together. If one piece is missing, or out of place, no matter how small, the entire effect is spoiled. Once a picture is in production, it is too late to correct errors caused by lack of preparation or vision."

Brown had a completed script on "Idiot's Delight" three months before the first day of shooting.

"I was fortunate in working with Sherwood, who realized the need for amplifying the play to fit the needs of the motion picture. The play took place in one set, a hotel lobby. In the picture, we used forty-one sets, giving the story greater scope and action. The sets were designed to fit the action. By working ahead this way, there was no lost motion or indecision when it came to photographing a scene. We knew exactly how each scene would play."

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Fred Stone's Daughter Wins Over U. S. Blondes

Paula Stone, daughter of Fred Stone, famous screen and stage star, was called back from a personal appearance tour in the East to become a "Cable Clamour Girl" in "Idiot's Delight," starring Norma Shearer and Clark Gable. She plays Beulah, one of the six membrs of "Les Blondes," Gable's traveling musical comedy troupe in the picture. Scores of America's most beautiful blondes were tested for the role.

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PAT RESUMES HER CAREER

Pat Paterson, Mrs. Charles Boyer in real life, plays her first screen role since her marriage, with an important featured role in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Idiot's Delight."

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ARNOLD ACTOR 33 YEARS

Edward Arnold, who plays a leading featured role in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Idiot's Delight," is celebrating his thirty-third year on the stage and screen.

'Glamour Girls' Sweep Gable Off Feet--Literally

"Clark Gable's Glamour Girls" literally sweep the star off his feet in the featured dance number for "Idiot's Delight."

The 600 pounds of femininity—Virginia Grey, Lorraine Kruger, Paula Stone, Virginia Dale, Joan Marsh and Bernadene Hayes—pick the 190-pound Gable off the dance floor and carry him out of the scene.

It was the last scene shot in the production.

"If they should drop Gable," cracked Director Clarence Brown, "at least we'll have the picture finished."

Schildkraut Plays Sympathetic Role

Joseph Schildkraut's notable performances in "Marie Antoinette," "Suez" and "The Life of Emile Zola" brought him another outstanding role, with his selection to play Captain Kirvilne, commander of an important frontier station at the outbreak of the next World War, in "Idiot's Delight," starring Norma Shearer and Clark Gable.

Schildkraut gives a sympathetic portrayal of a conscientious officer, in whose hands rests the fate of a dozen human beings.

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Skeets Gallagher Cashes In On Trip

Skeets Gallagher's amazing experiences during a European vacation paid big dividends, with a leading featured part in "Idiot's Delight." Among those Gallagher talked to on his return was Director Clarence Brown, who immediately cast him as Donald Novadel, American "greeter" at a swank Alpine hotel.

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ARNOLD BIOGRAPHY

Edward Arnold, who appears with Norma Shearer and Clark Gable in "Idiot's Delight," has completed a 47,000-word autobiography on which he has been working secretly for the past two years. Frances Fisher Du Buc is editing the book.

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SHEARER STARTS NEW FAD

Norma Shearer started a new feminine fad in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Idiot's Delight," square bracelets. The bracelets, once favored by Russian nobility, caused much comment among feminine players on the lot, who had them duplicated for personal wear.

SUCCESS STORY

As with advertising and publicity, the sensational success of the play will be the keystone to your exploitation campaign. Sell PERFORMANCE! Sell SUCCESS! Sell IMPORTANCE! "Idiot's Delight" is the most important dramatic property that has come from the Broadway stage in years. Every move in your campaign must say just that.

DRAMATIC EDITORS

Dramatic editors of the newspapers will be as interested in the picture as the screen editors. Don't neglect to give them a personal invitation to the preview or first performance. Suggest an advance story discussing the selection of Gable and Miss Shearer for the Lunt-Fontanne roles.

PLAY IN BOOK FORM

Robert E. Sherwood is a name of major importance in literary circles. Arrange with book stores, libraries and school for displays built around the book, published by Charles Scribner's Sons. Other Sherwood books will add to the display and help sell the author as a significant literary figure.

ROOM 274

The hotel room sequence would be powerful sales stuff if it were not necessary to handle it so delicately. The mere suggestion, however, of mysterious romance in a hotel room packs a hint of intrigue that will arouse curiosity and start talk.

Announce in advance that you are inviting as your guests on opening day all persons registered in rooms numbered 274 in the city's leading hotels. Get a story to the papers and the stunt will build itself.

GABLE GREAT HOOFER

Clark Gable's screen debut as a dancer has already brought a windfall of publicity and will sell a load of seats if you take full advantage of it. Get stills of him with the "Gable Glamour Girls" in every spot where the dance fans will see them—public dance halls, dance schools, recreation centers. Ask local dance experts what they think of Clark as a hoofer—and work it into a press release.

WAR VETERANS

You have a certain customer in every local World War veteran if you let them know what it is about. Get material in club rooms of American Legion and other veteran organizations pointing up the SECOND WORLD WAR angle. Send a letter to every Legion member, stressing the anti-war theme. The post commander should be able to get a statement in the papers urging all veterans to see the picture if you invite him to the opening as your guest.

SHEARER FASHIONS

"Idiot's Delight" gives you Norma Shearer in modern fashions for the first time since "Riptide," nearly five years ago. You don't have to guess twice about what that means to the women—and the style shops. Use every trick in your bag to plant stills and displays. Nothing you do will sell more tickets.

MODEL WAR PLANES

The bombing planes shown in the air raid sequences are the most modern in service—a great inspiration for the youngsters in a model plane contest. Restriction to fighting planes will give the stunt a new twist which should be worth newspaper space.

The Story of "Idiot's Delight"

Harry Van (Clark Gable) was in show business before he was drafted and went to France. He was harker with a carnival show and played piano in picture theatres. He returns from the big fuss with a busted arm where a bit of shrapnel nicked him. This doesn't prevent Harry from being a "wow" with the nurses.

On his release from the military hospital, luck is against him. He tries everything but usuallly is "at liberty."

Then he lands a job as assistant to a tipsy, has-been mind-reader, Madame Zulieka (Laura Hope Crews), who prescribes grin for her constant colds.

At the Eldorado Theatre in Omaha, he meets Irene (Norma Shearer), a member of the Follers acrobatic troupe, who tries to save his act when Madame Zulieka gets drunk.

Irene is attracted to Harry and he to her. She is the first girl in Harry's life that he can't figure. She tells fantastic stories about Russia and says she was born to be a princess.

Back at the hotel, Harry gets rid of Irene to gab with the boys, and she doesn't like it. When he gets to his room, there is Irene. She informs Harry that she wants to be a mind-reader and paints a glowing picture of them working together. Harry finds himself being drawn irresistably to Irene. The next day, they part, since their acts are billed on different circuits. Harry buys her a knick-knack for seventy-five cents.

Years later, Van and his six sweeties, "Les Blondes," Shirley (Virginia Grey), Edna (Bernadene Hayes), Beulah (Paula Stone), Francine (Virginia Dale), Elaine (Joan Marsh) and Bebe (Lorraine Krueger), are touring Europe in a musical act. En route to Geneva, they are stopped at an important frontier post. There are rumors of war.

No one is permitted to cross the border. There is nothing for Harry to do but stop at the border hotel for the night. In the hotel are a Mr. and Mrs. Cherry (Peter Willes and Pat Paterson), a young English couple on their honeymoon; Dr. Waldersee (Charles Coburn), a scientist, and Quillery (Burgess Meredith), a dynamic Frechman.

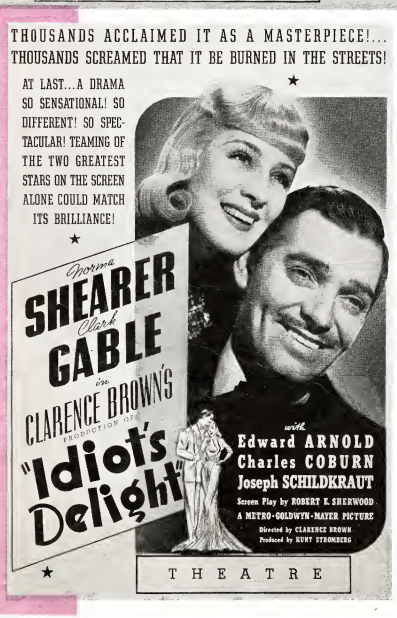
Captain Kirvilne (Joseph Schildkraut), the only one with authority to pass them across the border, is polite, but firm. No one can leave. There is feverish activity at the flying field below the hotel. Two people enter the hotel, a Russian Countess and Achille Weber (Edward Arnold), a munitions salesman. Van is startled when he gets a good look at the Countess. She seems strangely familiar, but Harry can't be sure. It is a greatly changed Irene. That evening, Dr. Waldersee, who has devoted his life to saving humanity, now determines to offer his scientific knowledge to the nation of his birth for destruction. The honeymoon ends for the Cherrys, with the husband's decision that he must return to England and fight.

Irene has only scorn for Weber, whose munitions sales made war possible. Weber is irritated by Irene's attitude. Finally, a train is provided to take the couple to Switzerland. Harry is ready to go, when he discovers that no passport has been provided for Irene.

Weber has decided to leave her. Harry decides to stay. He knows that he is in love with Irene and she with him. Irene admits her identity. They plan a mind-reading act when they get to Switzerland. Then enemy bombers are heard. They are attacking the air field. Sitting at a piano, in the glow of a cigarette lighter, Harry and Irene sing the hymn, "Abide With Me." A bomb strikes the hotel. There is darkness, but from the wreckage their voices can be heard still singing, stronger and stronger.

SHEAR

THE Dramatic Highlight OF 1939!
The Screen's Queen of Glamour . . . Wrapped in the Arms of the Screen's First Man of Romance!
NORMA
Shearer
AS COUNTESS IRENE
Toast of the Continent! Consort of kings! An irresistible charmer playing at love the maddest way...to drown the memory of what happened one night in a hotel room in Omaha, Nebraska!
CLARK
Gable
AS HARRY VAN
A vaudeville hoofer to whom life was another song and dance...cheap jobs, cheap play, cheap romances...until a strange dream of love, out of the buried past, finally caught up with him!
TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SIX YEARS
TOO LONG...IN ANOTHER PULITZER PRIZE TRIUMPH
MORE SENSATIONAL THAN "STRANGE INTERLUDE"
Clarence BROWN'S
PRODUCTION OF
Idiot's DELIGHT
WITH
EDWARD ARNOLD • CHARLES COBURN • JOSEPH SCHILDKRAUT
Screen Play by ROBERT E. SHERWOOD • A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE
Directed by CLARENCE BROWN • Produced by HUNT STROMBERG
THEATRE
ADDED


THOUSANDS ACCLAIMED IT AS A MASTERPIECE!...
THOUSANDS SCREAMED THAT IT BE BURNED IN THE STREETS!
AT LAST...A DRAMA SO SENSATIONAL! SO DIFFERENT! SO SPECTACULAR! TEAMING OF THE TWO GREATEST STARS ON THE SCREEN ALONE COULD MATCH ITS BRILLIANCE!
Norma SHEARER
Clark GABLE
in
CLARENCE BROWN'S
PRODUCTION OF
"Idiot's Delight"
with
Edward ARNOLD
Charles COBURN
Joseph SCHILDKRAUT
Screen Play by ROBERT E. SHERWOOD
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE
Directed by CLARENCE BROWN
Produced by HUNT STROMBERG
THEATRE

NORMA SHEARER and CLARK GABLE
in
Clarence Brown's Production
of
"IDIOT'S DELIGHT"
with
EDWARD ARNOLD
CHARLES COBURN JOSEPH SCHILDKRAUT
BURGESS MEREDITH

Directed by
CLARENCE BROWN

Screen Play by
ROBERT E. SHERWOOD

From the Pulitzer Prize Play "Idiot's Delight" *by*
ROBERT E. SHERWOOD

Produced by The Theatre Guild, Inc.

Music Score by
HERBERT STOTHART

Produced by
HUNT STROMBERG

THE PLAYERS

Irene	Norma Shearer
Harry	Clark Gable
Achille Weber	Edward Arnold
Dr. Waldersee	Charles Coburn
Captain Kirvline	Joseph Schildkraut
Quillery	Burgess Meredith
Madame Zuleika	Laura Hope Crews
Donald Novadel	Skeets Gallagher
Mr. Cherry	Peter Willes
Mrs. Cherry	Pat Paterson
Dumptsy	William Edmunds
Pittatek	Fritz Feld

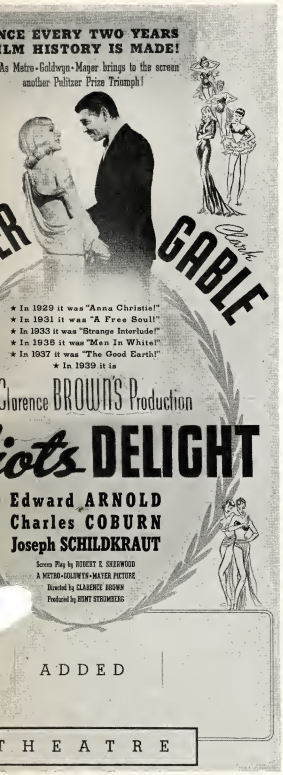
and

HARRY VAN'S LES BLONDES

Virginia Grey	Virginia Dale
Paula Stone	Bernadene Hayes
Joan Marsh	Lorraine Krueger

The advertising
only . . . see th

R IN GABLE'S ARMS


NCE EVERY TWO YEARS
LM HISTORY IS MADE!
As Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer brings to the screen
another Pulitzer Prize Triumph!
Clark
GABLE
★ In 1929 it was "Anna Christie!"
★ In 1931 it was "A Free Soul!"
★ In 1933 it was "Strange Interlude!"
★ In 1936 it was "Men In White!"
★ In 1937 it was "The Good Earth!"
★ In 1939 it is
Clarence BROWN'S Production
iots DELIGHT
Edward ARNOLD
Charles COBURN
Joseph SCHILDKRAUT
Screen Play by ROBERT E. SHERWOOD
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE
Directed by CLARENCE BROWN
Produced by HUNT STROMBERG
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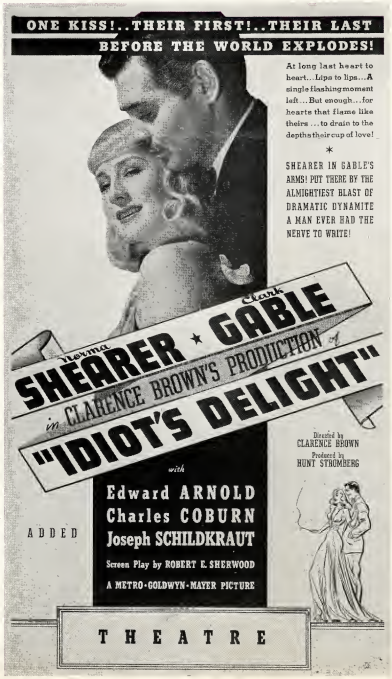
THEATRE


ONE KISS!..THEIR FIRST!..THEIR LAST
BEFORE THE WORLD EXPLODES!
At long last heart to heart...Lips to lips...A single flashing moment left...But enough...for hearts that flame like theirs...to drain to the depths their cup of love!
★
SHEARER IN GABLE'S ARMS! PUT THERE BY THE ALMIGHTIEST BLAST OF DRAMATIC DYNAMITE A MAN EVER HAD THE NERVE TO WRITE!
Norma SHEARER ★ Clark GABLE
in CLARENCE BROWN'S PRODUCTION of
"IDIOT'S DELIGHT"
with
Edward ARNOLD
Charles COBURN
Joseph SCHILDKRAUT
Screen Play by ROBERT E. SHERWOOD
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE
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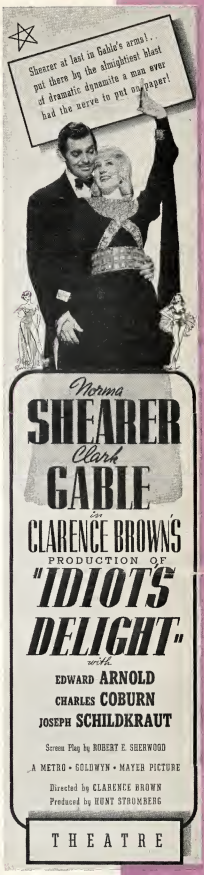

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"Honolulu"

Robert Young Says Dual Role Is Fun, But Work

Playing two roles for the price of one may not be good business, but it's a lot of fun.

That's the opinion of Robert Young, who plays a dual role in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer dance musical comedy, "Honolulu," and furnishes the comedy motif of the plot when his romances with Eleanor Powell and Rita Johnson become slightly scrambled with a charge of grand larceny. With Gracie Allen and George Burns to help stir up the romantic stew, the whole thing sums up to hilarious farce.

Young

"It was my first experience with dual roles," says Young. "I worked every day of the shooting schedule but four and half the time I was talking to myself in front of the camera. My biggest difficulty was trying to remember whether I was Brooks Mason, the movie actor, or George Smith, the big Hawaiian pineapple man.

"Playing scenes with yourself is like playing solitaire. You can't lose. In either case, you have to cheat a little."

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NEW SALES TECHNIQUE

Andy Ilona, Hawaiian orchestra leader, introduced a new sales technique to Hollywood when he and his Islanders were signed to appear in "Honolulu," starring Eleanor Powell. They got the job by sending a record to the studio in which Ilona gave a short "sales talk" before each number.

Eleanor Powell's New Picture Is Real Four Star Attraction

"Honolulu," Eleanor Powell's first starring dance musical since "Rosalie," comes up as a real Four Star attraction with Robert Young, George Burns and Gracie Allen sharing the billing in what has been declared by preview critics to be Miss Powell's greatest picture.

Jack Cummings, the producer for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, has proceeded on the sound premise that audiences want the most entertainment possible packed into one picture, and has blended hilarious comedy with romance, sensational dancing and captivating songs, with the result that he has a musical comedy that has all the sure-fire earmarks.

Cummings

Director Edward Buzzell, with a background of years in musical comedy on Broadway as a star, author and producer, has woven deftly a screamingly funny plot of a movie star and mistaken identity into the scheme of dance and song numbers that will more than satisfy the addicts of eye and ear entertainment.

The dancing highlight of "Honolulu" is Miss Powell's "three-in-one" dance in which she does a real Hawaiian hula, an Hawaiian drum dance and her own creation of a combination tap and hula. Her imitation of Bill Robinson doing his famous stair dance and an acrobatic rope skipping routine are sensational.

Gus Kahn and Harry Warren have written three new song hits for the picture, namely, "This Night Will Be My Souvenir," "Hawaiian Melody" and "Honolulu," which is sung by Gracie Allen.

Others in the cast are Rita Johnson, Clarence Kolb, Jo Ann Sayers, Ruth Hussey, Eddie Anderson, Willie Fung, Tom Neal, Sig Rumann and Edward Gargan.

The original story and screenplay are by Herbert Fields, Frank Partos and Jack McGowan.

Dimpled Darlings' Knees Are Shielded By Basketball Pads

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer chorus girls have adopted basketball pads to protect those dimpled knees during rehearsals for the native dance in "Honolulu," in which the girls had to do many of their routines on bended knee. Eleanor Powell, star of the picture, saw in no time the girls' knees would be raw, so she sent her property man, Harold Turburg, to a Culver City sporting goods store and had him purchase forty sets of knee pads for the dancers.

Burns and Allen Scene So Crazy It Can't Be Written

Eleanor Powell's new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer dance musical, "Honolulu," has the only scene on record that couldn't be written into a scenario. It came about when it was realized that although George Burns and Gracie Allen are in the picture they did not have one scene together in the original script. Burns offered to write one and Jack Cummings, the producer, agreed. The next day Cummings asked George for the scene. George said it was all set, but he couldn't show it to him because he couldn't put it on paper.

"That doesn't make sense," said Cummings.

"Well, neither does the scene," replied Burns, who tried to explain that the lines and business were so hopelessly intermingled that it couldn't be explained.

"It's . . . well, it's just Gracie," George concluded.

Cummings took a chance, they shot the scene without a script, and it is one of the comedy highlights of the picture.

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Miss Powell Starts Dance Laboratory

Eleanor Powell, who has created thousands of original dance steps, hit upon a plan to simplify her work of dance creation for "Honolulu." She has had all of her dances photographed in slow motion and has installed a "dance laboratory" in her Beverly Hills home, equipped with a projection machine. By studying the dances executed by herself in slow motion she evolves new variations of the triple, the pick-up, the jump and the drag without the necessity of executing them repeatedly.

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Benny's 'Rochester' Gets Name Mixed

Eddie Anderson, who is Jack Benny's famous Negro stooge, "Rochester," on the radio, plays the role of "Washington," Robert Young's valet, in "Honolulu." Director Eddie Buzzell called him for his first scene at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and addressed him as Washington. "Couldn't you make that name Syracuse or Elmira, Mr. Buzzell?" inquired Eddie." They're a little closer to Rochester."

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SUCCESS REUNITES THEM

When Eleanor Powell was thirteen and making her first professional appearance in a night club in Atlantic City, N. J., an athletic young habitue of the New Jersey beach resort appointed himself her personal life guard. His name was Stubby Kruger. Eleanor went on to become the world's greatest feminine tap dancer and Stubby became Olympic diving champion. They met again for the first time in a scene for "Honolulu," starring Miss Powell. Stubby does a diving specialty in the picture.

Clark GABLE in 'IDIOT'S DELIGHT'

Gable's 'Glamour Girls' Represent All Parts of U. S.

No one section of America has a corner on beautiful blondes.

Offered as evidence are the "Gable Glamour Girls," the star's chorus of blonde cuties, who do a song-and-dance act with Clark Gable in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Idiot's Delight." They are the pick of the nation's most attractive blondes.

Virginia Grey was born in Hollywood and has been out of California only twice in her life.

Paula Stone, daughter of Fred Stone, famous stage and screen star, was born in New York City.

Bernadene Hayes, selected as the "Most Beautiful Radio Artist," when she was a blues singer on the air, was born in St. Louis, but has lived in Madison, Wis., Detroit, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Cincinnati and Memphis.

Virginia Dale was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, and is the South's representative.

Lorraine Krueger claims St. Louis as her home town, and received her stage training at the Municipal Opera of that city.

Joan Marsh is the only small town girl to win a "Glamour Girl" role. She was born at Porterville, California.

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Norma Shearer Delighted With Role Of Girl Acrobat in 'Idiot's Delight'

Norma Shearer, costumed in spangled tights as a little acrobat for a scene in "Idiot's Delight," swung dizzily by her teeth for a brief moment, dropped lightly to her feet and laughed.

"This is fun!" cried the screen's Juliet and Marie Antoinette. "Most of my recent characters have been such sincere ladies," she continued. "They were interesting to play, but limited. Now, for a change, I'm a heroine who is a fascinating challenge to characterization. I am permitted a few tricks, like swinging by my teeth."

Shearer

As Irene, the vaudeville performer of Robert Sherwood's Pulitzer Prize winning play, Miss Shearer not only swings by her teeth, but in later sequences of the picture, finds excitement as a phoney Countess. After "Marie Antoinette," Miss Shearer's transformation is all the more startling, with blonde hair worn in a Byzantine bob, exotic gowns and a Russian accent.

"Although I have played virtuous and shady ladies of all ages on the screen," Miss Shearer remarked, "Irene is different from anything I have done.

"In 'A Free Soul' and 'Strange Interlude' Clark Gable and I both had serious parts, with very little opportunity for comedy. But in this one we do everything but stand on our heads. While I do my aerial act, Clark has a song-and-dance routine that is riotously funny. We play the piano and we sing. We do a mind-reading act. From start to finish, the picture was a refreshing experience.

"Besides, I think Mr. Sherwood has written a truly great play."

Star Re-Creates Fifth Great Role From B'way Stage

With her portrayal of Irene opposite Clark Gable in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's forthcoming film version of Robert Sherwood's Pulitzer Prize winning play, "Idiot's Delight," Norma Shearer creates on the screen her fifth role introduced into the American theatre by notable stage stars.

Lynn Fontanne played the part in the original Broadway production opposite Alfred Lunt.

Other plays brought to the screen by Miss Shearer, in which she had to match performances of great dramatic stars were "Barretts of Wimpole Street," played originally by Katharine Cornell; "Smilin' Through," played on the stage by Jane Cowl; "Private Lives," played by Gertrude Lawrence, and "The Last Mrs. Cheyney," which was probably Ina Claire's greatest stage hit.

In addition to these, Miss Shearer recreated Shakespeare's "Juliet" after Jane Cowl had scored a tremendous hit in the role on Broadway and throughout the country's theatres.

Miss Shearer's achievements, following these outstanding stage stars in their greatest performances is the more remarkable since she is one screen star of the present era who has never appeared on the stage.

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THE ARTISTS WHO MADE "IDIOT'S DELIGHT"—Seated, left to right, they are Cameraman William Daniels, Director Clarence Brown, Laura Hope Crews, Edward Raquello, Pat Paterson, Norma Shearer and Clark Gable, the stars; Peter Willes and Edward Arnold. Standing, left to right, are Charles Coburn, Skeets Gallagher, Fritz Feld, the "Gable Glamour Girls," Bernadene Hayes, Joan Marsh, Virginia Dale, Paula Stone, Lorraine Kruger and Virginia Grey; Burgess Meredith, Joseph Schildkraut and William Edmunds.

Esperanto Used As Language In 'Idiot's Delight'

Esperanto, the universal language without a country, solved the problem of creating a nameless European nation for "Idiot's Delight," co-starring Norma Shearer and Clark Gable. It is used in dialogue for the first time on the screen in this Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture.

The use of Esperanto in the film was restricted to establishing the imaginary locale of the picture. It was spoken by Joseph Schildkraut and minor characters, peasants and officials. It was used also on signs.

From the viewpoint of Joseph R. Scherer, president of Esperanto Association of North America, Hollywood's recognition of the language proves its practicability as the ideal neutral language.

"There are four million Esperantists throughout the world," said Scherer. "This will add to that number."

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Charles Coburn In Powerful Role

Charles Coburn, who made his first screen appearance just a year ago in "Of Human Hearts," after forty years on the stage, was awarded the most powerful role of his long career, as Dr. Waldersee, an erratic scientist, in "Idiot's Delight," with Norma Shearer and Clark Gable.

Robert Sherwood, the author, considers Dr. Waldersee one of his greatest characters, a scientist whose life has been devoted to ridding the human race of disease. His ambition is to win the Nobel Prize. But when war comes, he forsakes his duty to his fellow men and offers his services to his country to destroy rather than save.

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Basket Weaver Makes Hat for Clark Gable

The "corny" wide-brimmed straw hat Clark Gable wears in his "Idiot's Delight" dance number, was hand-woven by a basket weaver, Edward Johnston. When Clarence Brown couldn't find a straw hat of the right style period, he turned the job over to the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer property department. Johnston said he could do it, and did, weaving a new brim onto the crown of an old Gable chapeau.

Gable Gets Control Over Feet After Years of Insubordination

Clark Gable's feet have been problem children ever since he can remember.

"The jams they have gotten me into would fill a book," he said. But from now on, Gable's 11-C's have his blessings.

He admits being gratefully surprised that they piloted him safely through his song and dance act for "Idiot's Delight," in which he is co-starred with Norma Shearer.

Gable

"Frankly," Gable remarked, "that dancing business had me worried for two years."

Gable had never stepped a foot on a dance floor until he started work with George King, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer dance director. He was convinced that he couldn't make his feet behave.

"As a kid," he went on, "I had the biggest feet, hands and ears in Hopedale, maybe in all Ohio. I was always tripping over my feet.

"After a few lessons in private with King, it wasn't bad at all. He taught me the fundamentals of balance and rhythm. I wasn't supposed to be a Fred Astaire, just an ordinary vaudeville hoofer. That helped.

"My worst moment came when Director Clarence Brown started to photograph the dance. There were twenty-one members of the cast on the set, including Norma Shearer, Charles Coburn, Edward Arnold, Pat Paterson and Joseph Schildkraut. If I ever had the jitters, I had them then.

"But there was no backing down. I just said, 'Feet, follow me!'—and they did."

Actor Plays Wooden Indian to Aid 'Props'

Mitchell Lewis, veteran character actor, was cast in the most unusual role of his career in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production, "Idiot's Delight," co-starring Norma Shearer and Clark Gable. He played a wooden cigar store Indian to oblige the property department, because it was impossible to find a real one.

Norma Shearer Sings Russian

Norma Shearer sings a Russian number, "Kak Stranna," with Clark Gable as her accompanist, in "Idiot's Delight."

It is one of the comedy highlights of the picture, although Miss Shearer didn't know she was going to sing fifteen minutes before the scene was filmed.

Gable plays the number in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture and Director Clarence Brown suggested that Miss Shearer sing to give the scene more zest. She did—in Russian!

Edward Arnold Seen As Villain

Edward Arnold stepped into the front rank of screen heavies, with his selection to play Achille Weber, munitions manufacturer, in "Idiot's Delight," starring Norma Shearer and Clark Gable.

The role marked a distinct departure in characterization for the versatile Arnold, who recently scored hits in "You Can't Take It With You" and "The Crowd Roars."

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Gable Glamour Girls Champ Gum Chewers

Clark Gable and his six blonde dancing cuties became the champion gum-chewers of Hollywood, during the filming of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Idiot's Delight," which co-stars Norma Shearer and Gable.

Director Clarence Brown had them chewing gum throughout the picture for purposes of characterization.

M-G-M Picture Shows Terror of Aerial Warfare

The complete destruction of a great city by an air raid during a "future war" is graphically pictured in "Idiot's Delight," starring Norma Shearer and Clark Gable.

Not a fanciful version of such a raid, the sequence of bombing scenes is technically perfect, according to Director Clarence Brown, a graduate engineer and wartime flying instructor, who holds a transport pilot's license.

"From official records of the terror and devastation caused by modern aerial warfare," said Brown, "we have attempted to give motion picture audiences a clear and vivid insight into what war from the sky means."

A giant plane was constructed in the studio shops, which will reveal the inner workings of a bomber on its mission of death and 700 pounds of explosives were used in the actual bombing.

Cameraman William Daniels supervised the filming of night shots, photographing a brightly lighted, but sleeping city at elevations ranging from 3,000 to 10,000 feet.

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Hollywood Holds Burgess Meredith

Hollywood is keeping a firm grasp on the coattails of Burgess Meredith, who was set for another dash to Broadway when Director Clarence Brown sent an airplane to bring him back from Palm Springs for the dramatic role of Quillery, dynamic young idealist, in "Idiot's Delight," starring Norma Shearer and Clark Gable.

Richard Whorf created Quillery in the original New York stage hit of the Robert Sherwood Pultizer Prize winning play, and elicited critical acclaim in the notable scene when he denounces war-makers as "assassins" and "murderers."

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VIRGINIA HAS ANNIVERSARY

"Idiot's Delight," in which she plays a Clark Gable Glamour Girl," is Virginia Grey's twelfth anniversary picture. The young Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer player began her screen career at the age of nine in "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Her father, the late Ray Grey, was a motion picture director.

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